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the Communist cells in Slovenia are frantically formulating defensive plans against an "eventual putsch".

They are compiling a list of known Cominformists whom it would be necessary to liquidate at the outset of any revolt. House and street action squads are drilling on block defense. For the moment these preparations are being camouflaged with declarations that these measures are being taken in order to have a defense against an eventual invasion by "imperialists" on Yugoslav soil.

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even the naive, however, can comprehend that the true purpose of these preparations is to provide a defense against a Cominform coup d'etat, to be possibly implemented by Soviet forces.

- 2. Some leading circles of the Slovene Populist Party (Clerical) still doubt the veracity of the rift with the Kremlin.
- 5. In Slovenia, radio broadcasts of Tito's negotiations with the Western Powers have been received with mixed feelings and have awakened a variety of comments. The negotiations would indicate that Tito's regime is confronted with a dangerous dilemma, and is willing to transfer all its economic and financial troubles to the West. Opposition circles are convinced that the time is coming when Yugoslavia will not only be lopped off the Eastern Bloc, but actually will become a member of the Western Bloc, of which it was formerly a part.
- 4. On the other hand there is a noticeable resurgence of idolizing the Soviet, and Stalin in particular. Ardent Tito followers declare that the break between Moscow and Belgrade is true, and that the negotiations between Tito and the United States, notwithstanding denials of such negotiations, substantiate the fact that there has been a falling out. The main role in these negotiations is allegedly being conducted by Sava Kosanovic, Yugoslav Ambassador in Washington. The new wave of interest in the Kremlin, these Tito followers assort, serves as pressure on the Western Powers.
- 5. Many of the opposition expect much from Kosanovic. They look upon him as a non-Communist whom providence has presented with a great mission for the future welfare of Yugoslavia. It is conceivable that, in this, the opposition is exaggerating, particularly because Kosanovic's powers are probably very narrow and the Party does not trust him. Both the opposition and the members of the regime agree that the next few months will bring extraordinary events in the

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history of Yugoslavia.

- Party members are embarrassed because their principles have weakened, and in this they see the gravest dangers to their Party prestige, and, finally, in its right to existence. The news of the alleged negotiations has served, at least, to stimulate the work of the opposition. Information has been received that meetings between the leaders of the two Opposition parties (unidentified) have been held quite openly in Slovenia. The skilled politicans, however, are still reserved.
- 7. A people's revolt is reported in the making. The Kremlin may attempt to kindle this revolt with its fifth-columnists, which are growing in Yugoslavia. The fact exists, however, that the armed Tito followers will not permit themselves to be showed aside without considerable resistance. Another fear lies in the fact that American aid may serve to reinforce Tito's government, while the people will become hungry, destitute and exposed to greater terrorism.
- There continues to be a great deal of agitation in the Communist cells of Slovenia. Tito's visits, and his many inflated promises, have failed to calm the fear over the winter. In such industrial centers as Jesenice, Hrastnik and Zagorje recent measures for the increase of the income of skilled workers gave rise to great dissatisfaction among the unskilled workers. In Jesenice many unskilled workers renounced their Communist Party membership, which constitutes an unprecedented boldness.

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